

LAMAR COUNTY

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Alex Brown
Ronald Strawbridge, Sr.
Jackie Mitchell
Fayrene H. Turner
Linda Robertson
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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Short-term detention center
2. Teen pregnancy
3. Alcohol and drug abuse prevention program

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19)

physical and mental well-being in the county.

Teen pregnancy prevention

Policy Council Action Steps:

- communicate regularly with school nurses, DHR, Mental Health, and other agencies involved with teens to identify those at risk
- educate teens and the general public through media and newspapers about pregnancy prevention services available
- support development of teen focused programs that promote awareness of abstinence education, learning to deal with peer pressure, and pregnancy prevention

Substance abuse Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps:

- promote personal and interpersonal skills in relation to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use
- encourage unfavorable attitudes towards alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use
- provide knowledge of the negative consequences of drug use and benefits of a drug-free lifestyle

Parenting Classes

Policy Council Action Steps:

- promote education, awareness, and betterment of parental skills
- provide knowledge and examples of appropriate parenting skills
- encourage a positive approach

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

A Short-term detention center at the Lamar county jail

Policy Council Action Steps:

- seek funding for staffing of a short-term detention center
- seek funding from local governments and obtain necessary approvals from oversight agencies
- investigate possible funding sources through ADECA and other federal agencies

Alcohol and drug abuse prevention program

Policy Council Action Steps:

- explore availability of local programs
- coordinate available local programs with community corrections
- if local programs are not available, explore the availability of grants to fund local programs

Education - Children

learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Home School regulations and requirements at the state or local level

Policy Council Action Steps:

- send House and Senate Representatives, as well as, the State Board of Education the enrollment figures on students lost to Home Schools
- require Home Schools to create lesson plans by the Alabama course of study
- require 140 clock hours for instruction in each subject

Increase funding for alternative schools

Policy Council Action Steps:

- use the school incident report to determine the need for an alternative program
- use retired teachers and other volunteers from the community, after a background check, to assist in the alternative school
- seek additional funding through grants and provide adequate funding for the alternative program

Early Care and

Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Lamar County is in need of more day care facilities

Policy Council Action Steps:

- write grants to secure more funds for day cares
- encourage day care training programs for workers
- investigate standards for home day cares

Need for an after school program for children

Policy Council Action Steps:

- promote local school programs
- secure grant funding
- encourage volunteerism from the private sector.

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Lack of Transportation

Policy Council Action Steps:

- establish grants to improve transportation
- assess other transportation providers in the area

Lack of Available Day Care Facilities

Policy Council Action Steps:

- request legislative action to reduce the standards for home day cares
- request more local day care training from child day care management agencies

Parent Involvement and Skills

- Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Increasing the number of parenting skills classes offered in Lamar County

Policy Council Action Steps:

- work with DHR and Mental Health to assess and increase the parenting programs in Lamar County
- involve the faith-based community to encourage family development programs
- work with the local school system to encourage participation in family parenting programs

Collaborate with local agencies to conduct parenting workshops and seminars

Policy Council Action Steps:

- work with Beville State Community college and the SOS program to promote their involvement with parenting seminars and workshops
- involve DHR in implementing parenting classes and workshops successfully

Policy Recommendation

1. Investigate funding sources to implement teen outreach programs.
2. Continue to provide funding for educational prevention programs.
3. Additional funding for the short-term detention center.
4. All students of home schools will be required to pass the Alabama high school graduation exam.
5. Children in the Alternative school should be required to attend sufficient counseling.
6. Provide transportation for work and school purposes, including GED preparation.
7. Provide funding for a transportation system and explore possibilities of working with other agencies that already provide transportation services in the area.
8. Remove unnecessary red tape in the day care system.
9. Provide funding for after school programs.
10. Make money available to the local school system for Family Planning Programs.